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Mr. Speaker, the single most important vote of the week and one of the most important of the year is buried in the massive Water Resources Development Act coming before Congress this week: the Upper Mississippi Lock project. This is the ``Big Dig" of water projects. Actually, it is like five or six big digs, since 10 percent of all water resources for years to come will be spent on this single project.

I urge my colleagues to look closely at the amendment that I will be offering with my colleague, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. Flake), which will require that before this project moves from planning to construction in 5 years, that the minimum justification for the demand for barge traffic, the rationale for the project, is justified. Taxpayers deserve no less for the largest water resources project in America's history.